

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 3-12 with the following amended paragraph:

Alternatively, the stiffening member may be secured to the anchoring member 36. Referring to FIGURE 6c, the distal end of a stiffening member, such as stiffening member 44 (described below), may be secured to the anchoring member 36 and an anti-tear device 41 may be secured to the proximal end of the stiffening member. The anti-tear device 41, which is located within the elongate body distal portion 24a and which includes a slot 43 through which the steering wire distal portion 28 passes, spreads the forces associated with the bending of the stiffening member 44 over a greater surface area, thereby preventing the ~~bending~~ stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body distal portion. A suitable anti-tear device may be constructed by forming the slot 43 in a hypotube.